

# South African WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre: 17-21 October 2022 2022 Report

Lyn Hanmer<sup>1</sup>, Debbie Bradshaw<sup>1</sup>, Oluwatoyin Awotiwon<sup>1</sup>,  
Stefanus Snyman<sup>1</sup>, Soraya Maart<sup>2</sup>, Warrick Sive<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>South African WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre, SAMRC Burden of Disease Research Unit;  
<sup>2</sup>University of Cape Town; <sup>3</sup>University of Witwatersrand, South Africa

Virtual WHO-FIC

Poster Number  
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**Abstract** Colleagues associated with the WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre in South Africa are continuing their activities in support of the development and maintenance of the WHO-FIC internationally; in WHO-FIC network structures; in the development, implementation and use of ICD, ICHI and ICF in Africa; and in support of strengthening civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) in the WHO African region.

## INTRODUCTION

The WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre (CC) in South Africa is the only WHO-FIC CC in the WHO African region. The CC is hosted by the South African Medical Research Council (SAMRC) in Cape Town, and it continues to support the development, implementation and maintenance of the WHO-FIC in South Africa, across the Region, and through the WHO-FIC network. Our term as collaborating centre ended in 2020 and we are currently under designation for a further term as a WHO CC.

We have continued to implement our work plan, in close collaboration with key stakeholders in South Africa and the WHO Regional office for Africa.

## KEY RESULTS 2021-2022

### Support the implementation of WHO-FIC classifications in South Africa and in the African region

- ✓ The CC is engaging with key stakeholders in South Africa on how to support the transition from ICD-10 to ICD-11 for morbidity and mortality coding, and support the strengthening of births and deaths registration processes in the country.
- ✓ We supported the efforts of the WHO regional office to promote WHO-FIC through monthly virtual meetings.

### Participate effectively in the international WHO-FIC network

- ✓ The CC is actively represented in most of the WHO-FIC Committees and Reference Groups, including the Verbal Autopsy Reference Group (VARG). Representatives of the CC participate in working meetings, projects, and successfully participated in the 2022 mid-year meetings of the WHO-FIC structures.

### Contribute to development and maintenance of WHO-FIC classifications aligned to needs of the region

- ✓ A key activity in SA related to the WHO-FIC during this reporting period was the establishment of a Technical Working Group on Clinical and Diagnostic coding in South Africa (SA TWG) by the National Department of Health (NDoH). Members of the CC contributed significantly to this process through membership of the TWG and chairing of workstreams of the SA TWG (Bradshaw, Hanmer, Maart, Sive, Whitelaw), and participation in workstreams.
- ✓ One of the outcomes of the SATWG process has been an increased understanding and appreciation of the WHO-FIC among a range of stakeholders in healthcare in South Africa.

### ICD-10 & ICD-11:

- ✓ The ongoing implementation and maintenance of ICD-10 for mortality and morbidity coding remain a core focus. Inputs to the further development of ICD-11 are essential to ensure that the classification meets regional needs.
- ✓ We continued to participate in the ICD-11 update process (Dr Oluwatoyin Awotiwon and Dr Lyn Hanmer)
- ✓ We are collaborating with WHO Regional Office for Africa, in planning and supporting the development of ICD-11 online training for the region.
- ✓ An ICD-11 Roadmap support project was commissioned by the SAMRC to provide support to the NDoH in preparing a draft transition roadmap from ICD-10 to ICD-11 for South Africa. The primary outputs of the project are three papers:

- Paper 1: A report on the key issues and challenges that the roadmap would have to consider.
- Paper 2: A report on a literature survey about ICD-11.
- Paper 3: A report on a desk review of the use of ICD-10 and clinical coding in South Africa.
- ✓ Workstream 1 of the SA TWG addressed requirements for transition to ICD-11 as the national standard for diagnosis coding for mortality and morbidity, and recommended a phased transition.

### ICF:

- ✓ We continued to participate in the ICF Update process (Prof Soraya Maart and Dr Stefanus Snyman)

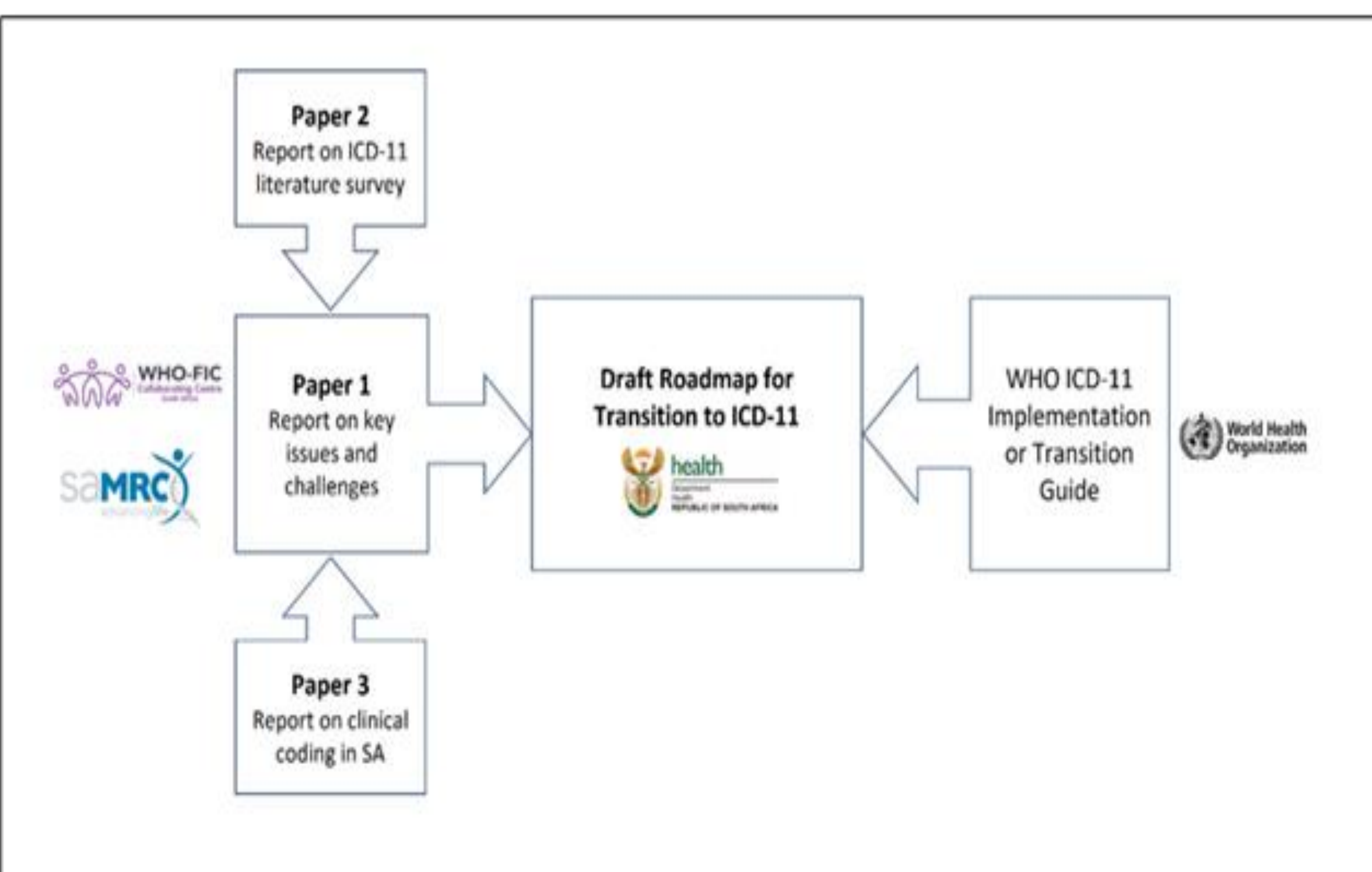
- ✓ The SA TWG included a workstream on functioning coding; an important reflection of an understanding among some key decision makers that information on functioning is an essential component of individual patient/client records.
- ✓ We are developing an ICF-based tool with the Western Cape Department of Human Settlements to assist the process of fairly prioritising the allocation of housing to persons with disability
- ✓ An online ICF Facilitators Course was presented to the physiotherapist, occupational therapist and speech-language & hearing therapist professional associations in South Africa. They are now equipped to develop ICF-based clinical guidelines for UHC
- ✓ The ICF Education Portal ([www.icfeducation.org](http://www.icfeducation.org)) was maintained.

### ICHI:

- ✓ The successful development of ICHI is of relevance for South Africa, since the country does not currently have a national procedure coding standard. Accurate data on procedures are essential for the planned implementation of a National Health Insurance (NHI) system, which is currently under way.
- ✓ The SA TWG workstream on interventions coding recommended an in-depth review of ICHI as a potential SA national standard for interventions coding.

### Develop, deliver and evaluate education relating to the WHO classifications and Cause of Death Certification

- ✓ An additional module on Certification of Covid-19 related deaths (Module 5) now available on the online Medical Certification of Cause of Death (MCCD) course: <http://www.deathcertification.org/>
- ✓ Supporting regional WHO-FIC education activities relating to Cause of Death Training
- ✓ We are collaborating with the WHO Regional Office for Africa on providing comprehensive MCCD and ICD-11 online training materials by providing content for a Regional online MCCD course, based on the SA course.
- ✓ The ICF Facilitators course, which was originally developed by the Dutch WHO-FIC Collaborating Centre, was augmented by members of the collaborating centres in South Africa, Australia and The Netherlands. It is now a fully-fledged online course.



Source: Foster RS. Transition to ICD-11: Key Issues and Challenges (Paper 1).

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